

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:CKJOHNSON:CEK
APPROVED BY EUR - MR STOESSEL
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236018

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING OF SECRETARY WITH EC NINE
FOREIGN MINISTERS AND BILATERAL WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER MORO

1. DURING MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL
NOVEMBER 30, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA SAID HE HAD BEEN
REQUESTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MORO TO CONVEY TO US THAT
GOI HAS TRIED ITS BEST TO SMOOTH OUT SHARP ANGLES IN EC
RELATIONSHIPS WITH US, THAT GOI HAS HAD TO CONTEND WITH
SOME ISSUES, SUCH AS EC APPROACH TO JAPANESE, THAT IT
WAS NOT TOO HAPPY ABOUT, BUT THAT UNFORTUNATELY EC NINE
ARE PASSING THROUGH GROWING PAINS WHICH ARE NOT ALWAYS
AGREEABLE TO OTHERS.

2. AMBASSADOR ORTONA THEN BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE
MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND EC NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS
IN BRUSSELS. EMPHASIZING THAT HE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT
SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EC NINE, ORTONA SAID HE HAD
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HEARD REPORTS OF THIS MEETING AND ASKED WHAT OUR REACTION
WOULD BE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL SAID THAT WE HAD
NOT REPEAT NOT RECEIVED ANY INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN
SUCH A MEETING. OUR REACTION IS THAT IF THE FOREIGN

MINISTERS OF THE NINE FEEL SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING MATTERS WHICH WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE NATO MINISTERIAL OR

BILATERAL MEETINGS, AND IF SUCH AN INVITATION WERE RECEIVED FROM THE NINE, THEN, THE SECRETARY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT. WE WOULD NOT ASK FOR SUCH A MEETING OURSELVES HOWEVER, AND IF IT WERE PROPOSED WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IN ADVANCE WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

3. AMBASSADOR ORTONA THEN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER MORO. HE SAID THAT MORO WAS ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SCHEDULING CONFLICTS HAD PREVENTED A PREVIOUS MEETING IN OCTOBER. ORTONA SAID THAT BEFORE FIXING A TIME FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, MORO WANTED TO SEE HOW THE TIMING OF A POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE EC NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT BE WORKED OUT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL SAID THAT FROM OUR STANDPOINT, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, PREFERABLY AFTER LUNCH, WOULD BE THE BEST TIME FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE EC NINE. ORTONA OBSERVED THAT MORO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ARRIVE IN BRUSSELS UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 9; THEREFORE, THE MORO BILATERAL COULD PERHAPS TAKE PLACE AS A BREAKFAST MEETING ON DECEMBER 10. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL SAID THE SECRETARY APPRECIATED THE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE OF THE GOI ON THE YEAR OF EUROPE INITIATIVE AND DEFINITELY WANTED TO HAVE A BILATERAL MEETING WITH MORO.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO CONVERSATION REPORTED ABOVE, ORTONA TELEPHONED STOESSEL TO SAY THAT HE HAD JUST HEARD FROM MORO THAT MORO WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS AFTERNOON DECEMBER 9 OR FOR BREAKFAST DECEMBER 10. STOESSEL CONFIRMED THAT OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR MEETING AT BREAKFAST DECEMBER 10 AND WE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE SCHEDULING THIS ACCORDINGLY IN SECRETARY'S PROGRAM.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DANISH AMBASSADOR BARTELS, STOESSEL CONVEYED OUR POSITION AS DESCRIBED PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE CONCERNING POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY AND EC NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS, EMPHASIZING THAT WE WERE NOT REQUESTING SUCH A MEETING OURSELVES.

6. STOESSEL ALSO TOLD NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION OF US POSITION CONCERNING POSSIBLE MEETING WITH EC NINE. RUSH

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